

THE INDIANA LAKE MICHIGAN COASTAL PROGRAM WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program has initiated an assessment of nine areas of the Coastal Program related to wetlands, public access, coastal hazards, cumulative and secondary impacts, energy and government facilities siting, lake debris, Great Lakes resources, special area management plans, and aquaculture. The assessment will help the Coastal Program identify potential ways to augment its current activities in one or more of the nine areas. If the Coastal Program decides on any new enhancement activities, additional funds will be available from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the new activities. "The additional funds will allow us to continue improving the experience of visitors to Indiana's coastal areas," stated Mike Molnar, Manager of the Coastal Program.

The first phase of the project is underway and the Coastal Program is seeking public input on a draft assessment of the nine program areas. The Coastal Program will host a public forum from 6:00-8:00 pm on January 10, 2005 at the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, 6100 Southport Road in Portage. The public is invited to attend this forum to hear an update on the status of the Coastal Program assessment. The presentation will be followed by an open discussion during which the public can provide comments and suggestions related to the nine Program areas.